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ANTY 210N.01: Introduction to Physical Anthropology.

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ANTHROPOLOGY 210 – Introduction to Physical Anthropology Fall Semester 2013

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to introduce students to the main subfields of Physical Anthropology. The course is organized into four sections: **First**, we will review the processes of evolution and natural selection, including discussion of evolutionary fitness, adaptation, basic inheritance, and population genetics. **Second**, we will discuss the diversity, evolution, ecology and behavior of non-human primates, and consider how insights from the study of non-human primates can enrich our understanding of humans. **Third**, we will trace the morphological and technological evolution of humans from the earliest bipedal woodland apes through Neanderthals and modern humans. **Fourth**, we will consider how an evolutionary framework can enrich our understanding of modern human genetic, phenotypic, and cultural diversity and behavior. By the end of the course, students should understand the broad principles and patterns characterizing social, behavioral, and morphological aspects of human evolution.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Lectures are on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 11:10am-12pm in 356 Social Sciences.

Instructor: Meradeth Snow

Email: meradeth.snow@umontana.edu

Office: 219 Social Sciences

Office hours: Mondays 2-5pm in my office, and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: TBA

If you have questions, I encourage you to contact your instructor via email, which is the fastest and best way to get in touch. Please take into account that your instructor should be treated politely in your correspondence.

TEXTBOOK

How Humans Evolved. Sixth Edition (2011) Robert Boyd and Joan Silk. New York: W. W. Norton and Company.

Please read the assigned chapters in the textbook **prior** to attending each lecture. Note that while lecture topics will reference readings, some topics and examples presented in lecture are not included in the textbook, and vice versa.

Earlier editions of the text, published before 2011, are available and can be used by students, but please note that the readings outlined for each class are based on the 2011 edition and modifications may need to be made. Any material not included in earlier editions is fair game for exams.

GRADES

The final grades for the course **will be curved** (though not individual assignments). Grades will be calculated as followed:

- Written assignments: 15% each (30% total)
- Genetics Handout: 5%
- Midterm Exam #1: 15%
- Midterm Exam #2: 15%
- Midterm Exam #3: 15%
- Final Exam (cumulative): 20%

Additional activities (such as book reviews or essays) for extra credit will **not** be offered.

Writing Assignments: Written assignments will consist of short essay answers to questions relating to classroom material. The first writing assignment will be due on September 30th and the second writing assignment will be due on November 13th. The writing assignments will be posted on Moodle. These assignments will test your ability to apply concepts that you have learned in class, and will be graded for content as well as clarity.

Make-up exams: Will **not** be given unless approval is obtained at least 24 hours prior to the exam, with a legitimate excuse (such as health reasons, with a doctor's confirmation). If you know you will miss an exam in advance, you must make an appointment to take the exam early, notifying your instructor at least **two weeks** in advance.

Late assignments: Will not be accepted, unless you have a documented, legitimate excuse and have contacted your instructor within **24 hours** of the due date. Please contact your instructor or TA well in advance if you know there will be a problem submitting your assignment. Email submissions will **not** be accepted.

MULTIMEDIA INFORMATION

Course website: There is a Moodle website for this course to which all enrolled students have access. You can log onto this website at <http://umonline.umd.edu>. Students are advised to check the website regularly (at least once a week) for announcements, supplemental information, and related links.

Lecture slides: Files containing lecture slides will be available on the course website at the beginning of each week and will remain on the course website for the duration of the semester. It is highly recommended that students print or bring electronic copies of the slides to lecture to take notes on.

Warning: Lecture slides will be posted in the hope they will provide a convenient resource for you to review sections that you may wish to see again, to view or lectures you may have missed due to unavoidable (and rare) absences from lecture. Please be aware that there is always a chance that technical problems may interfere with the website and lecture slides. Do not wait

until the night before an exam to log on in search of materials. If the server is down, you will be unable to access information and will be at a disadvantage on the exam.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN MY CLASS

Those students who have completed my courses successfully often display similar tendencies. I highly recommend taking these into account when judging what grade you hope to receive in the course. These include:

- 1) Attend lecture and take notes on the material.
- 2) Ask questions when confused about a topic or concept, either in class or during office hours, well before an exam.
- 3) Complete readings before class, annotating or taking notes while reading.
- 4) Participate in discussions of the material, either in class or with the TA and instructor.
- 5) Maintain a positive, self-motivated attitude.

CODE OF ACADEMIC CONDUCT

With regard to academic dishonesty, this class has a zero-tolerance policy and will promptly deal with any acts of academic dishonesty (cheating, plagiarism, or unauthorized help on assignments, etc.) according to university policy. For further information on what falls into these categories see: http://life.umt.edu/vpsa/student_conduct.php. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the instructor.

STUDENTS WITH DISSABILITIES

Students with disabilities may request reasonable modifications by contacting your instructor. The University of Montana assures equal access to instruction through collaboration between students with disabilities, instructors, and Disability Services for Students (DSS). “Reasonable” means the University permits no fundamental alterations of academic standards or retroactive modifications. (For other options see <http://www.umt.edu/disability>).

Now that you have read the syllabus entirely, in order to obtain one extra point on your first midterm exam grade, please use a full sheet of paper and write in ink: I have read and understand what will be required of me in Anthropology 210, and will ask questions on anything I am confused by. Sign your name and write it legibly, include your student ID number, and give it to your instructor or TA before the end of the first week of class.

ANTHROPOLOGY 210			
Week	Date	Topic	Reading/assignments
1	8/26	Introduction & Overview	Course syllabus
	8/28	Introduction to Evolution	Chapter 1
	8/30	Definition of a species & EEA	Chapter 4
2	9/2	NO CLASS	
	9/4	Natural Selection & Adaptation	
	9/6	Altruism & Inclusive Fitness	Pgs 164-166
3	9/9	Mendel's Pea Plants	Pgs 22-33
	9/11	DNA & what it does	Pgs 34-47
	9/13	Population Genetics (Hardy-Weinberg)	Pgs 48-59
4	9/16	Forces of Evolution	Pgs 59-73 Genetics Handout DUE
	9/18	Anthropological Genetics	
	9/20	MIDTERM EXAM #1	
5	9/23	Life "Primates"	
	9/25	Intro to Primates & Geologic Perspective	Pgs 102-118
	9/27	Primate Origins	Chapter 9
6	9/30	Of Guts and Teeth	Pg 108-109 Writing Assignment #1 DUE
	10/2	Jarman-Bell & Fallback foods	Pgs 118-132
	10/4	Life History & Sexual Selection	Chapter 6
7	10/7	Mating Systems	
	10/9	Apes	
	10/11	MIDTERM EXAM #2	
8	10/14	Fossil Dating	Pgs 198-201
	10/16	Bipedal Apes	Pgs 219-230
	10/18	Australopithecines	Pgs 230-246
9	10/21	Hominin Diversification	
	10/23	Origins of <i>Homo</i>	Chapter 12
	10/25	Neanderthals	
10	10/28	Early modern humans	Chapter 13
	10/30	Hominin tool use	Chapter 11
	11/1	MIDTERM EXAM #3	
11	11/4	History of the concept of race	
	11/6	Craniology & Eugenics	
	11/8	Phenotypic Traits I	Chapter 14
12	11/11	NO CLASS	
	11/13	Phenotypic Traits II	Writing Assignment #2 DUE
	11/15	Cultural Evolution	Pgs 378-388
13	11/18	Evolution & Modern Human Behavior	Pgs 366-378
	11/20	Human Fairness	Chapter 7
	11/22	Human Mate Choice	Chapter 16
14	11/25	Human Parenting & Demographic Trans.	
	11/27	NO CLASS	

	11/29	NO CLASS	
15	12/2	Forensic Anthropology I	
	12/4	Forensic Anthropology II	
	12/6	Review Session	
	12/9	FINAL EXAM: 8-10am in our normal classroom	

*Small changes in the above calendar and syllabus are at the discretion of the course instructor, but will be announced widely.